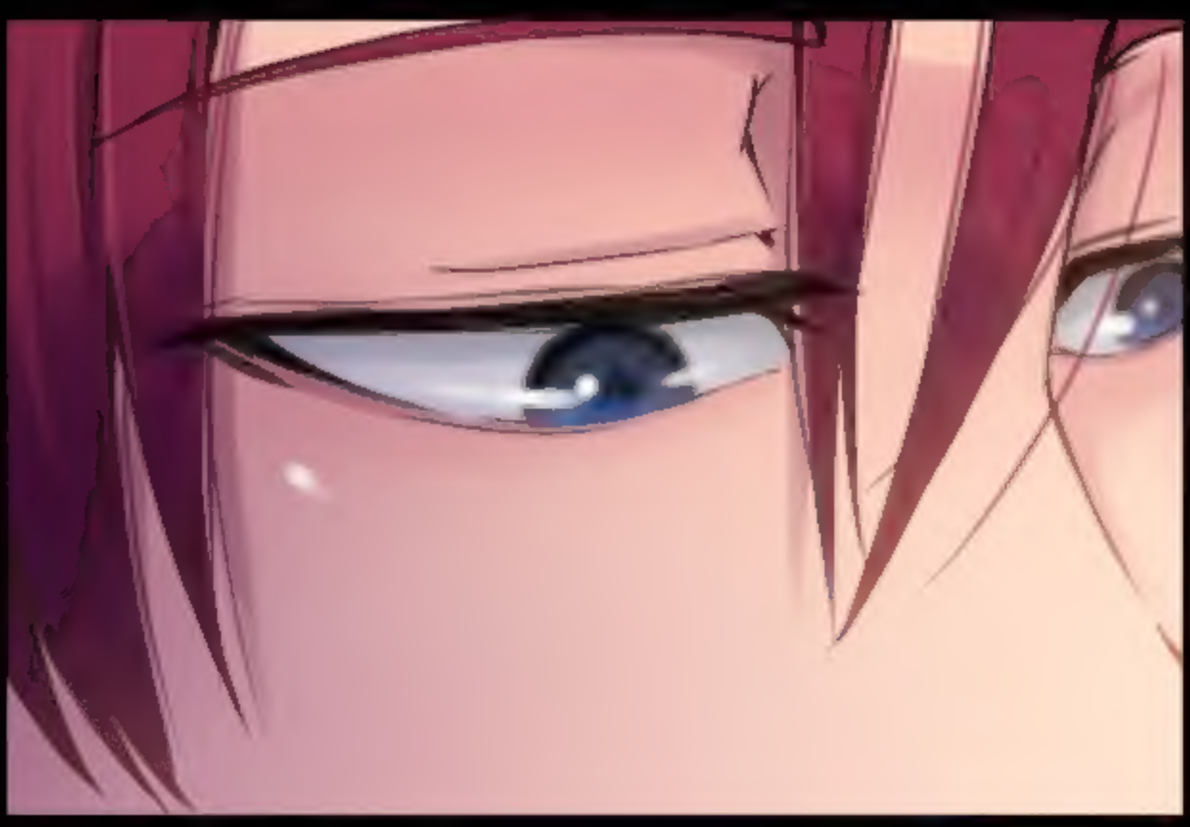
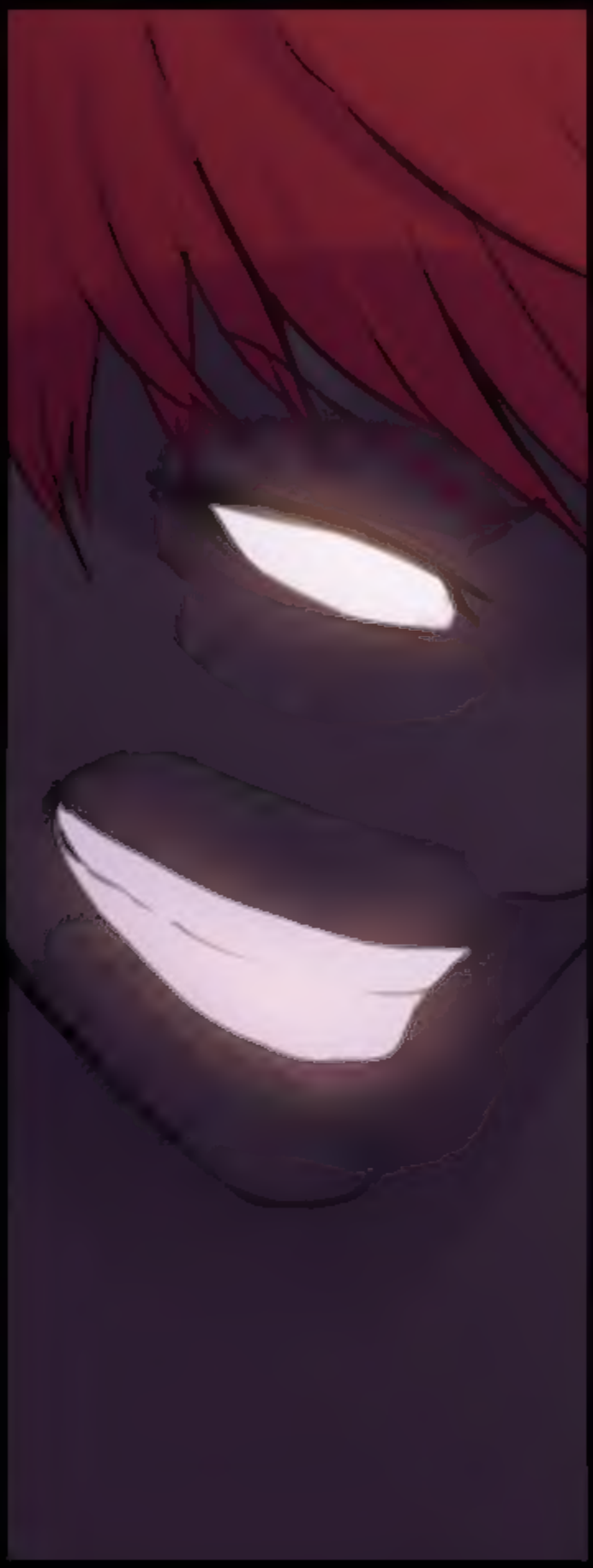




Ecstasy:hearts

" GOODNIGHT "

34

Last Wish

MY PHONE'S DEAD.
I'M USING ANYA'S RIGHT NOW.
I AM WITH HER BUT..

..SHE CAN'T TALK.
SHE'S STILL ASLEEP.

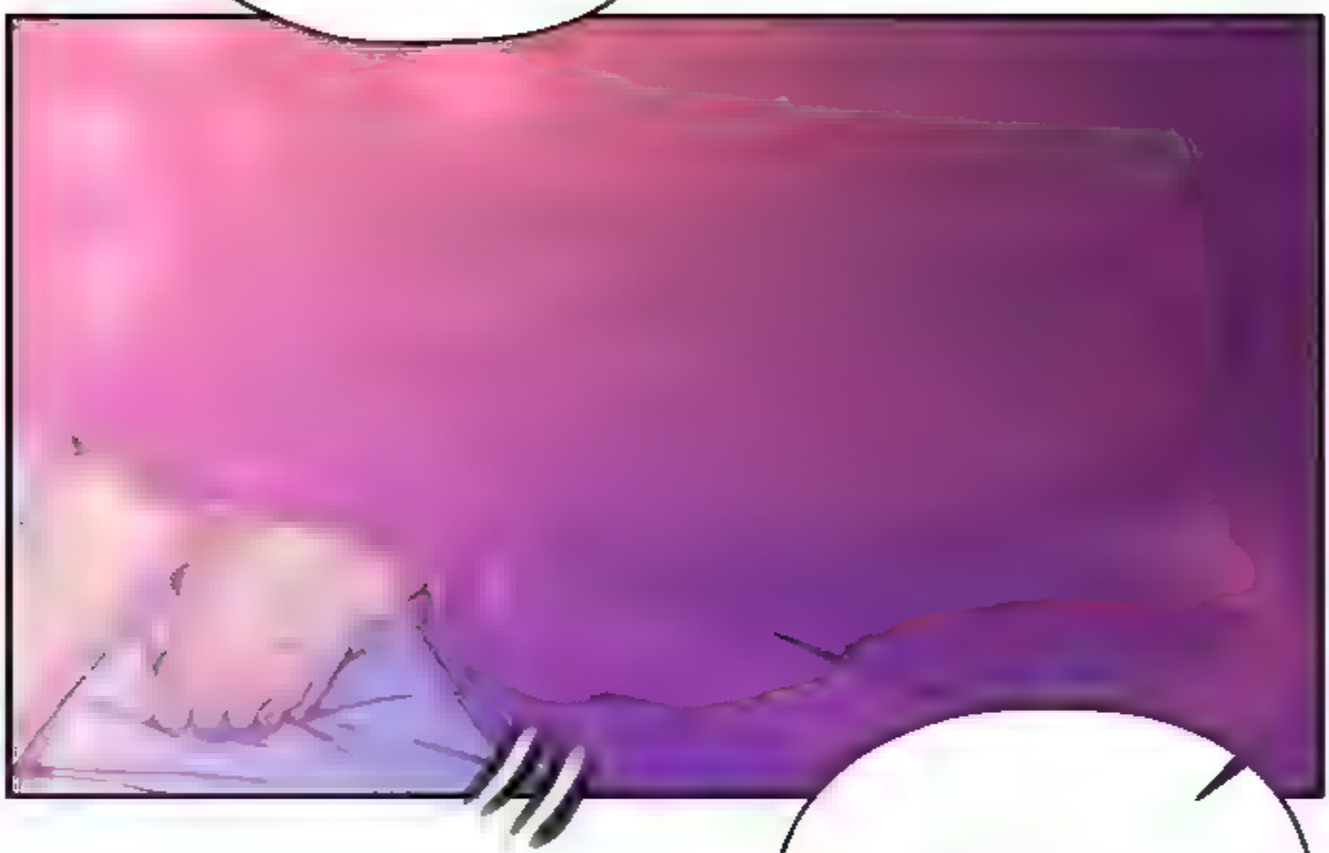
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING!? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND!? WHERE ARE YOU!?

AT LOVEONE MOTEL. ANYA'S QUITE DRUNK, I THOUGHT WE SHOULD STAY FOR THE NIGHT.

IT'S THE CLOSEST ONE HERE SO..

DON'T WORRY, I DID NOT TOUCH HER. I SWEAR.

DRUNK!?
HOW DID-..!?



MINORS CAN'T
ORDER ALCOHOL!

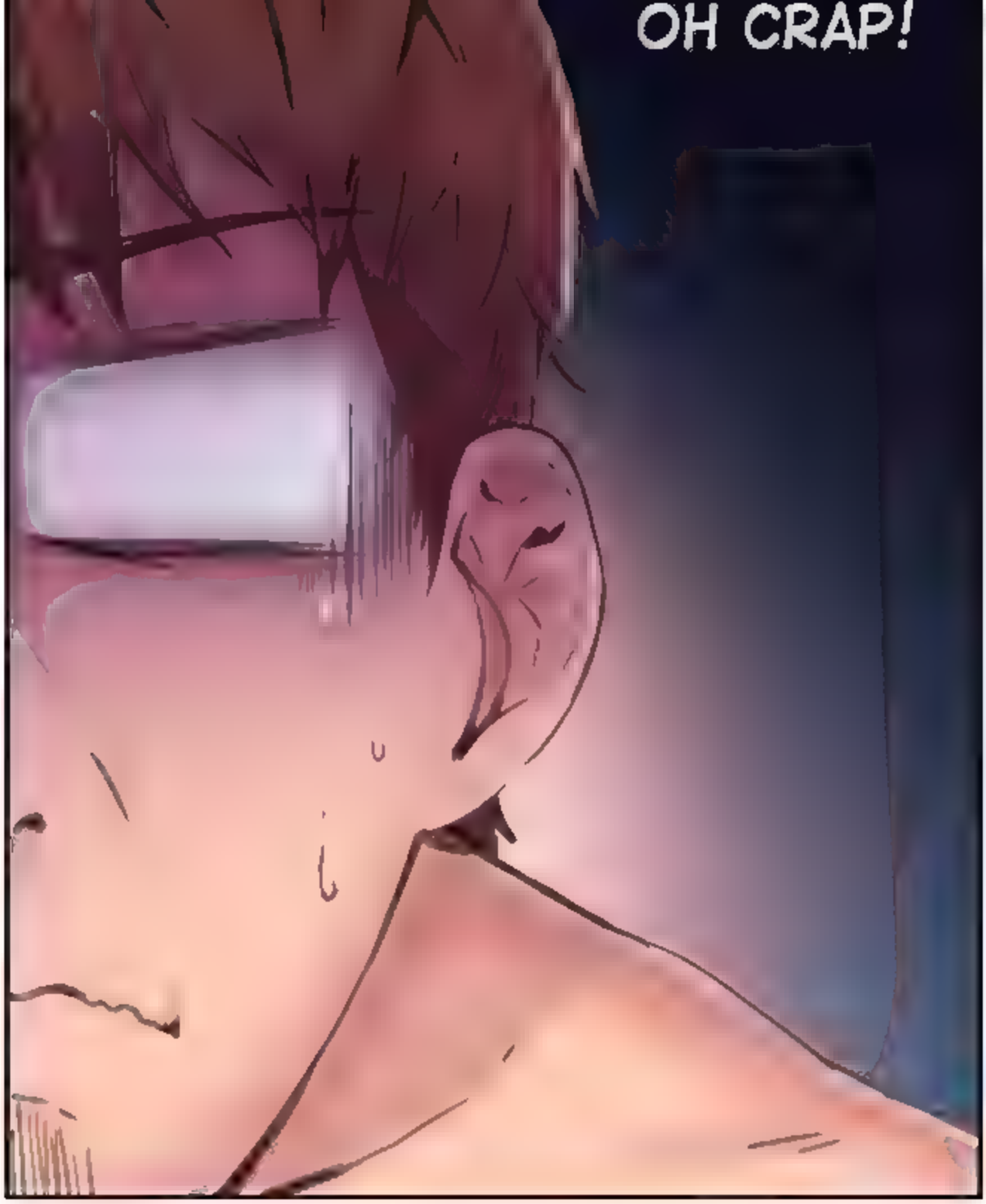
THEY KNEW
SHE WAS A
"SHIMIZU".
EVERYONE'S UNDER
HER FOOT.

WHAT!?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU HAVE JUST DONE, AXEL!? WE'RE BOTH DEAD!

HON?

IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT? WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?



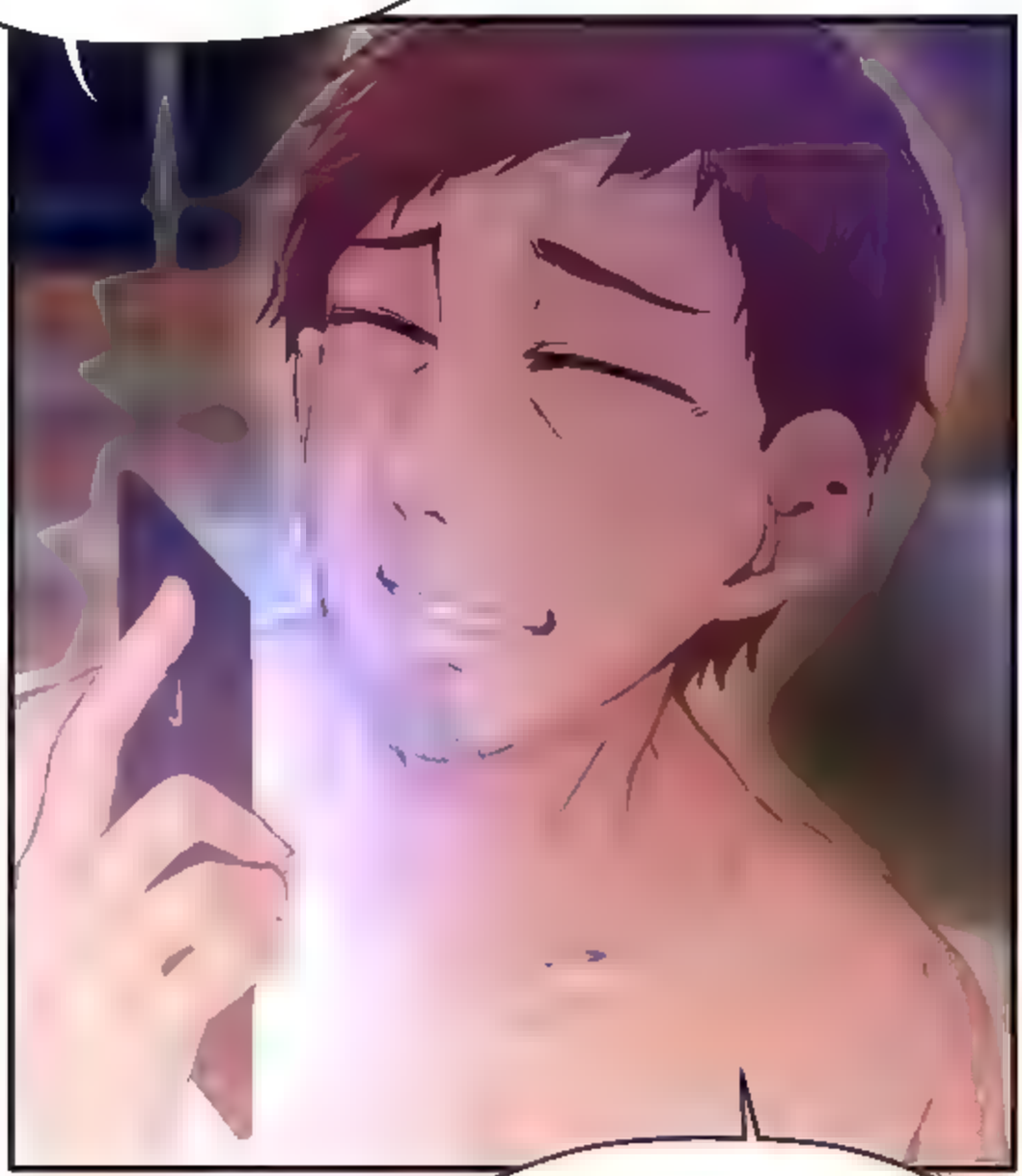
IS THAT ANYA
OVER THE PHONE?

GIVE IT TO ME.

I WANT TO SPEAK WITH HER.

AHA-HA..
I-IT'S NOT ANYA..
IT'S JUST-..

UH..



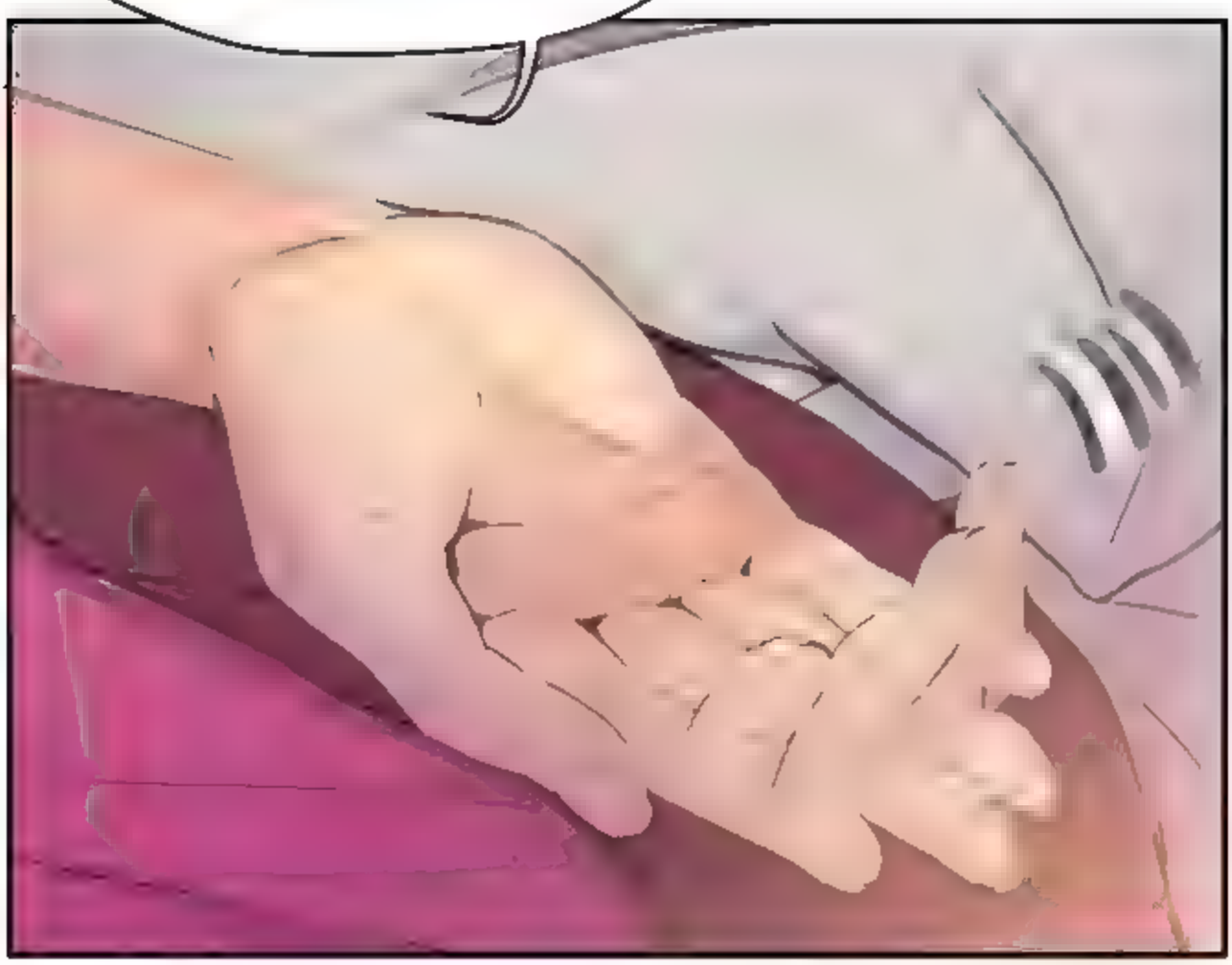
..SOMEONE FROM TOKYO.
UH.. ABOUT SOME BUSINESS DEAL AND STUFF SO UHH..
..YEAH. T-THAT'S IT.

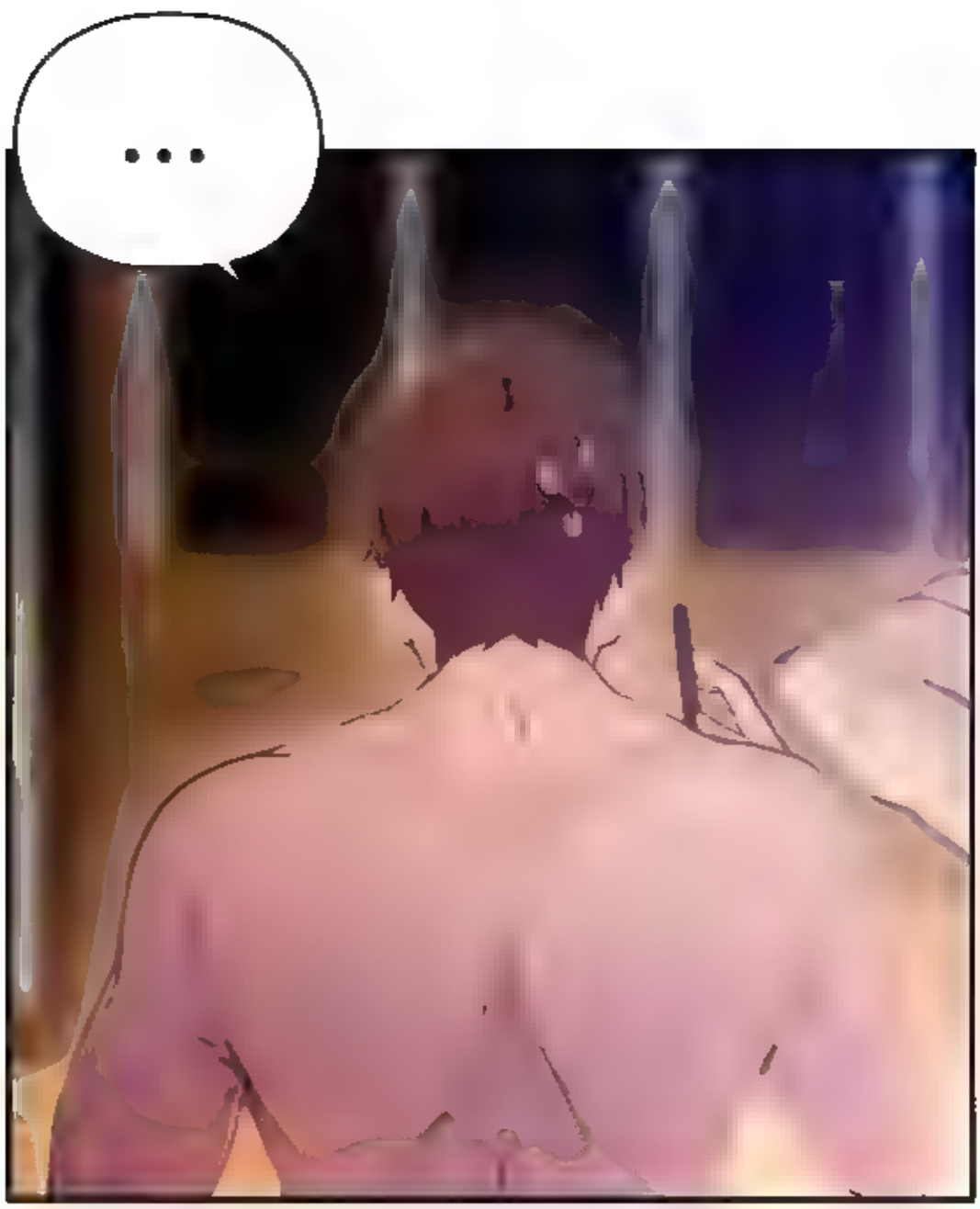
YOU CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP NOW.

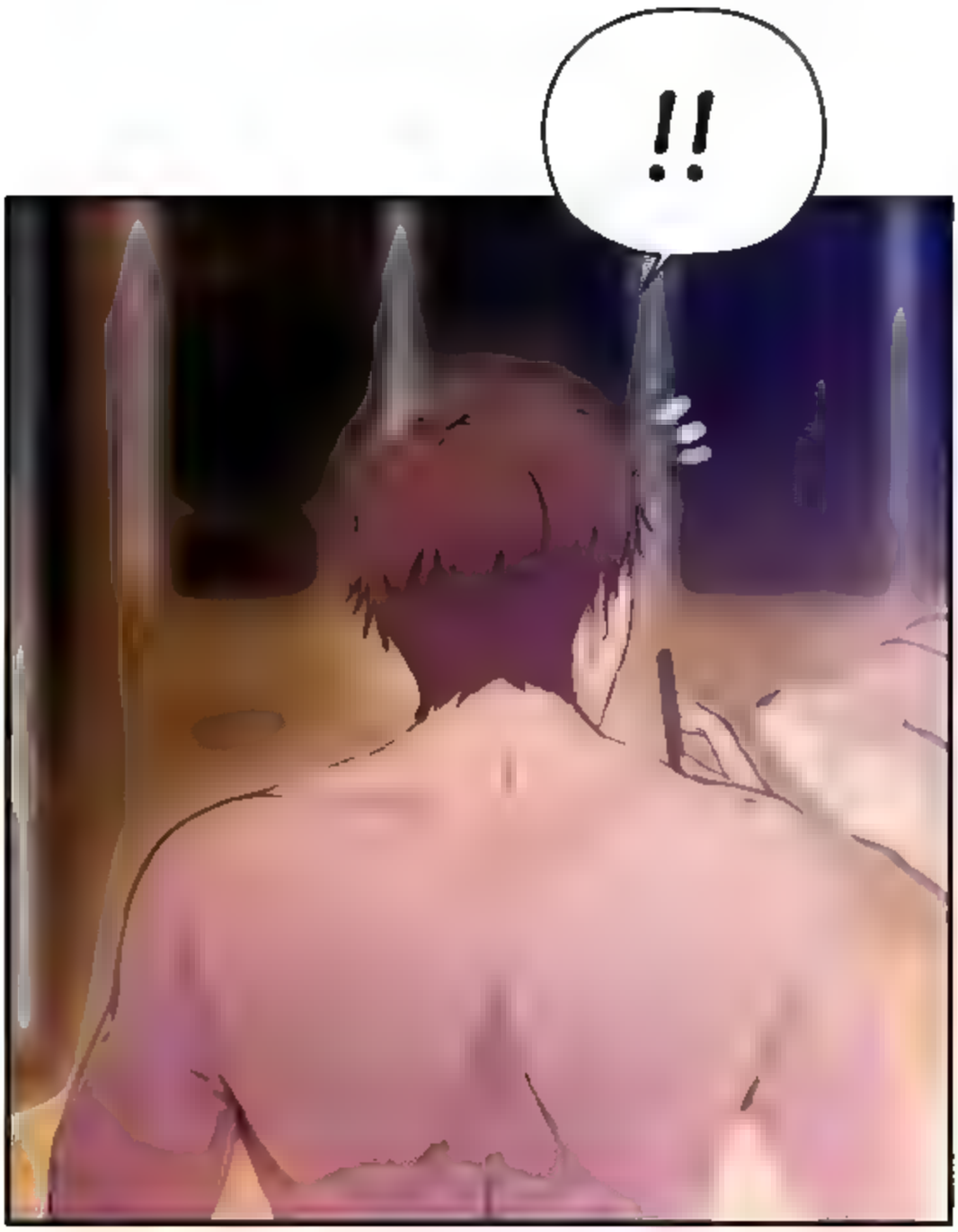
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
YOU THINK I'M STUPID?
NOW GIVE ME THE G**DAMN PHONE,

NATHAN.

HURRY UP.
DON'T MAKE ME
STAND.



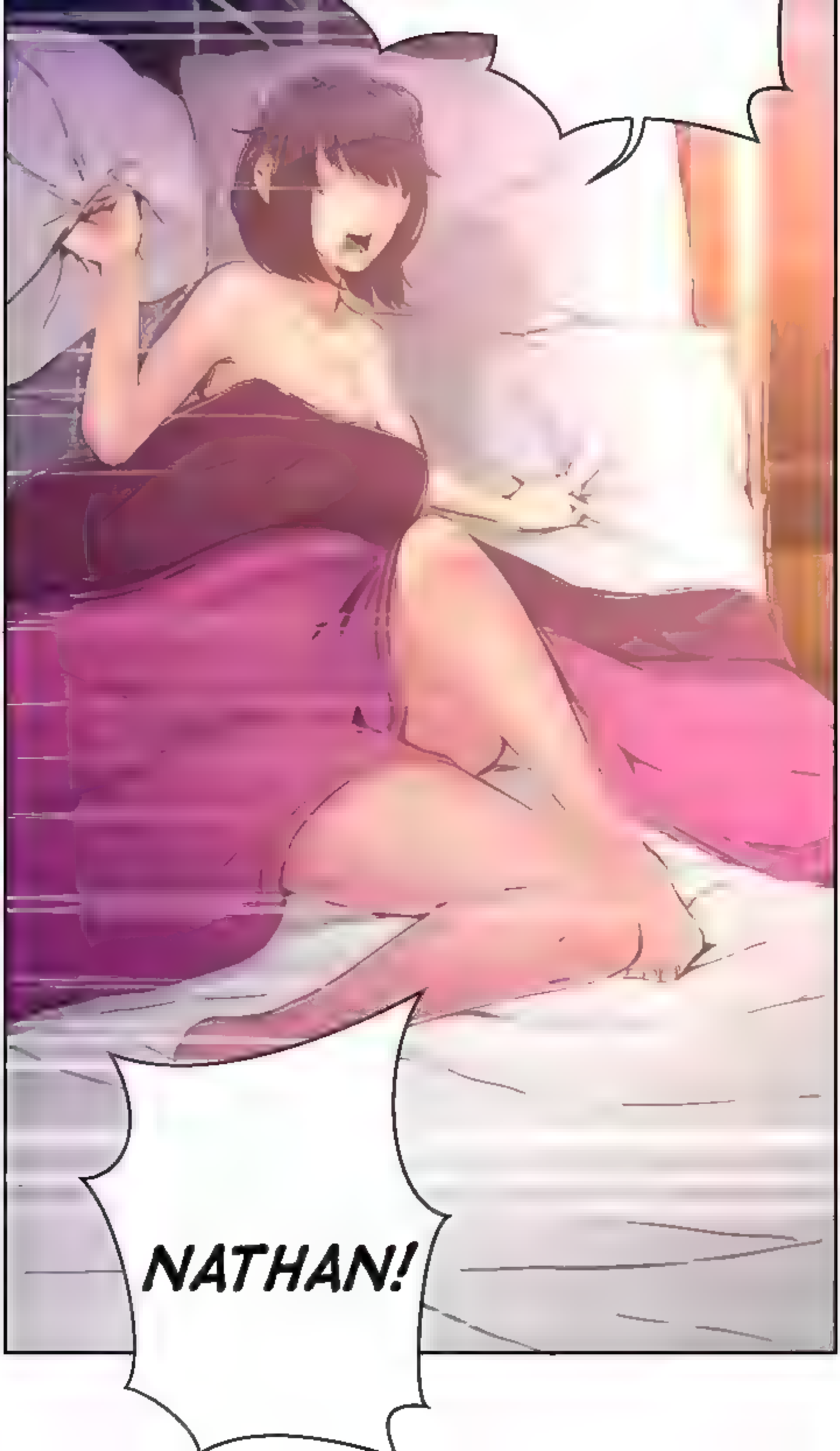




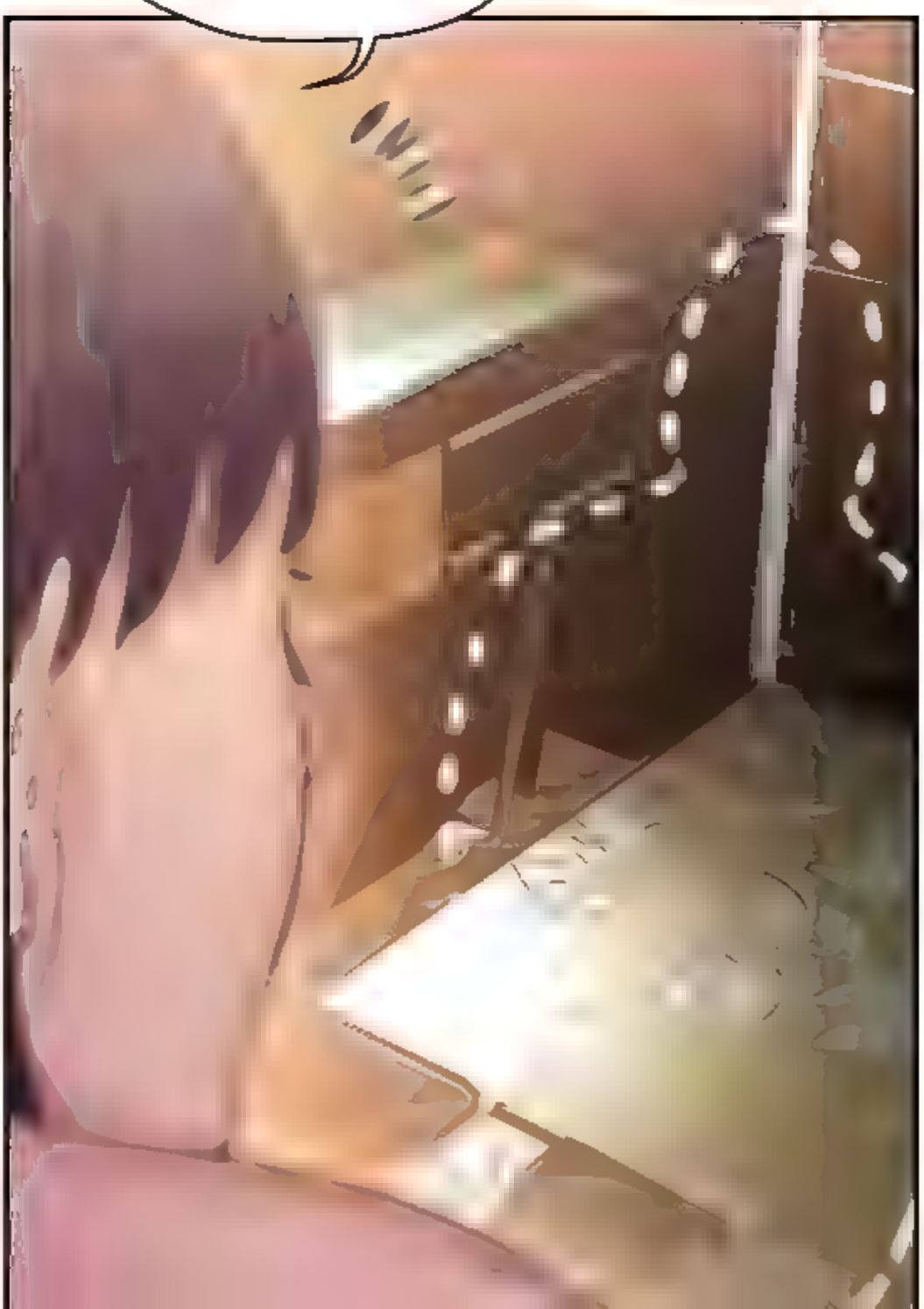
OHSH*T!

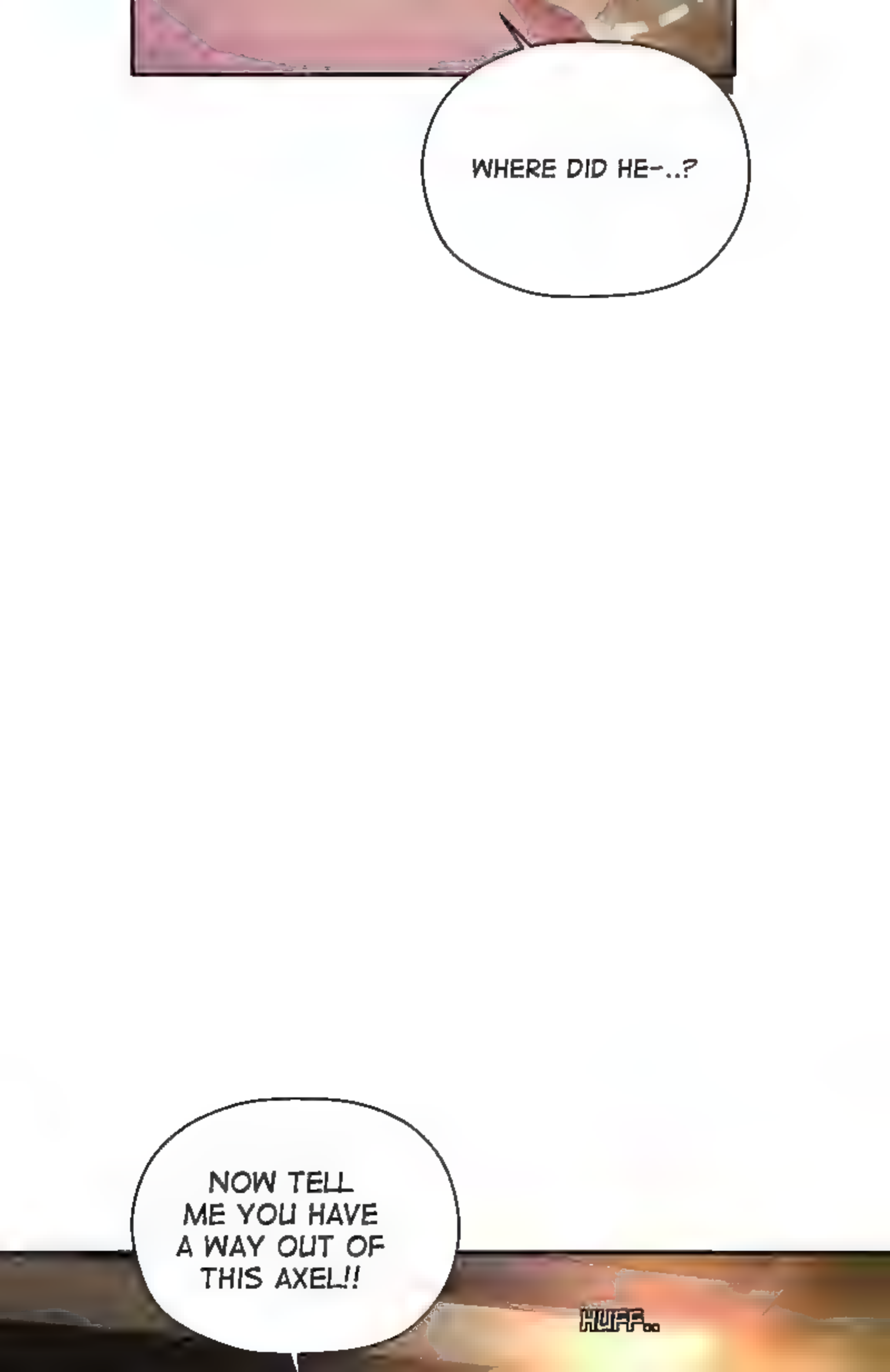
THERE'S A BUG BEHIND YOU!

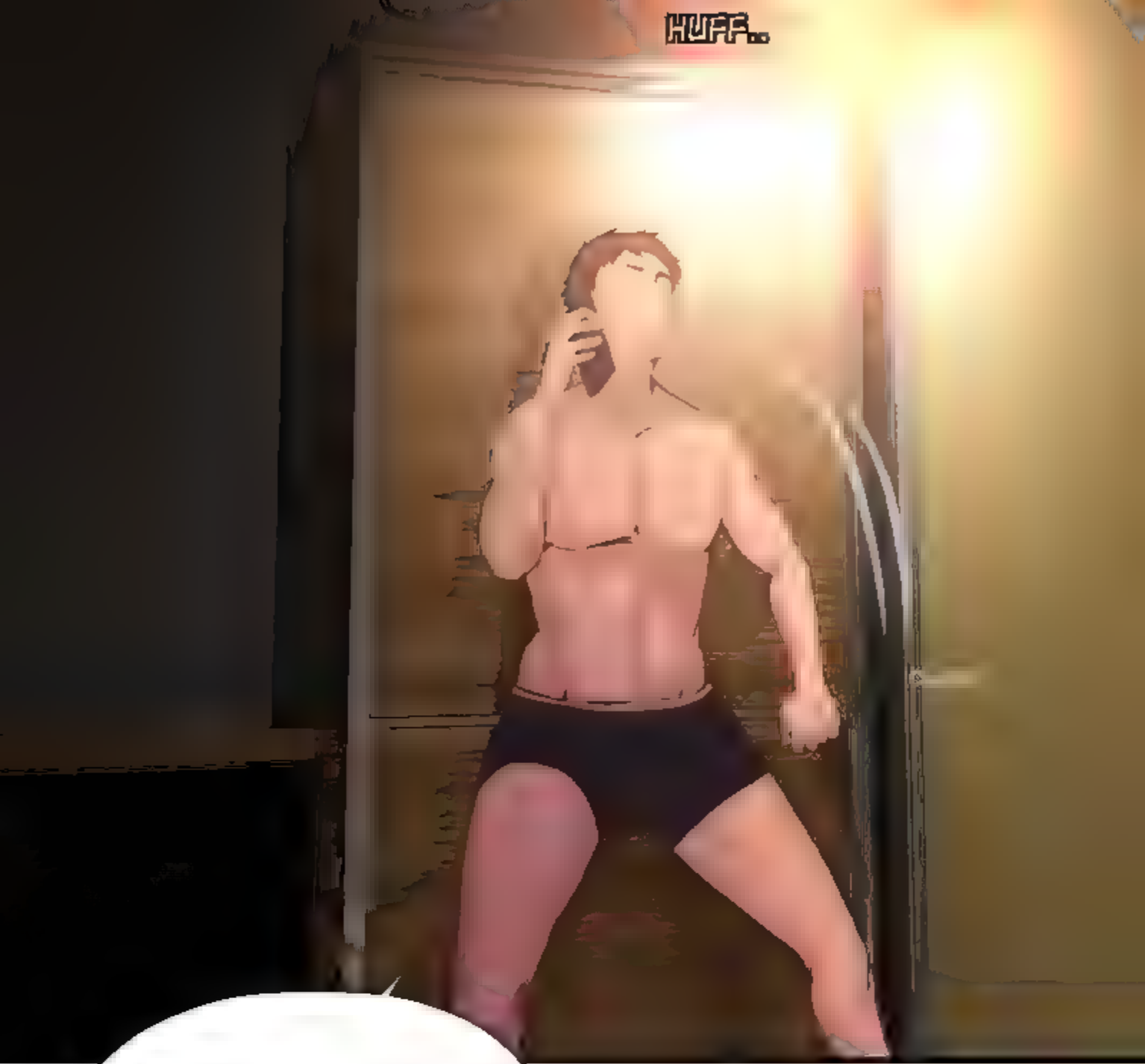
WHA-!?
GET IT OFF!!


NATHAN!

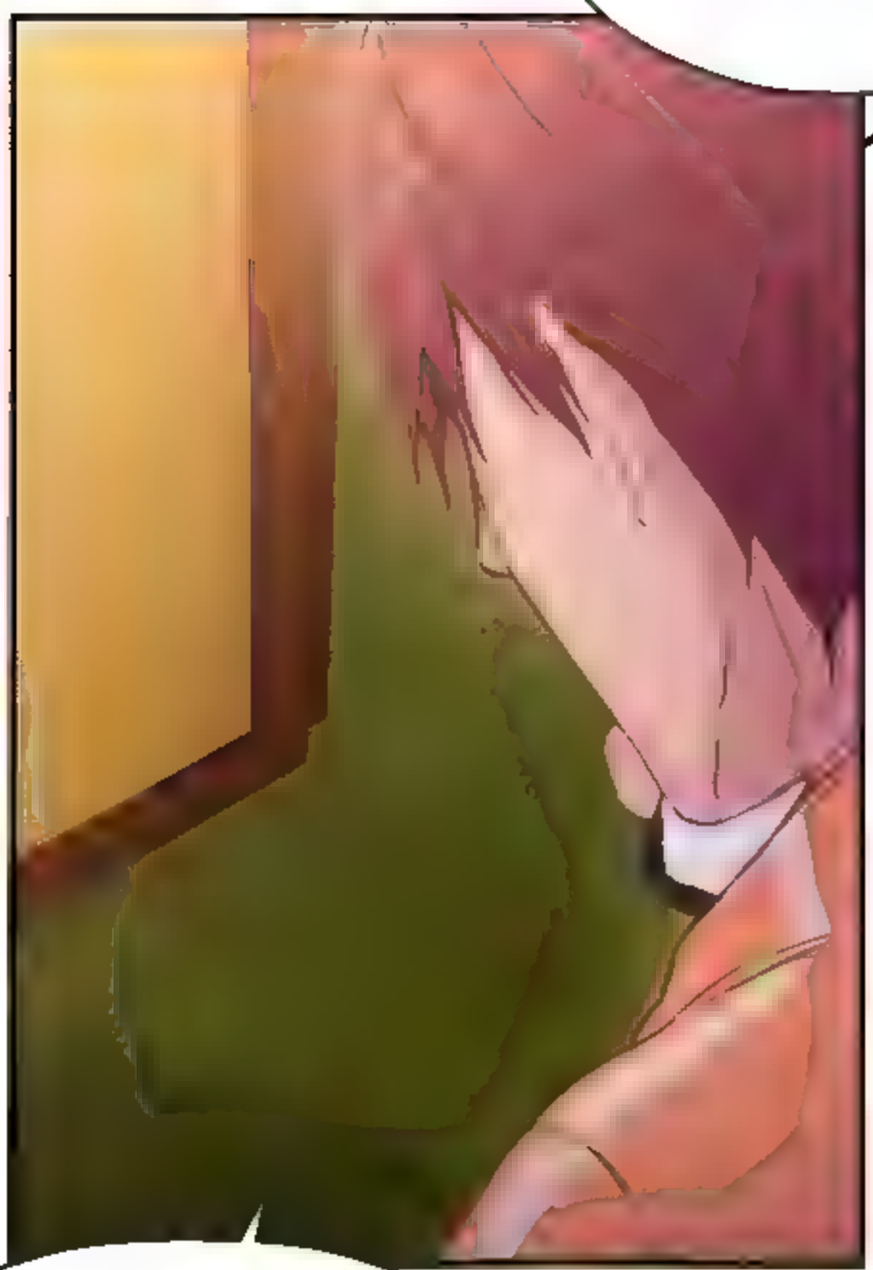
NA-!?




WHERE DID HE-..?
NOW TELL ME YOU HAVE A WAY OUT OF THIS AXEL!!
HUFF..

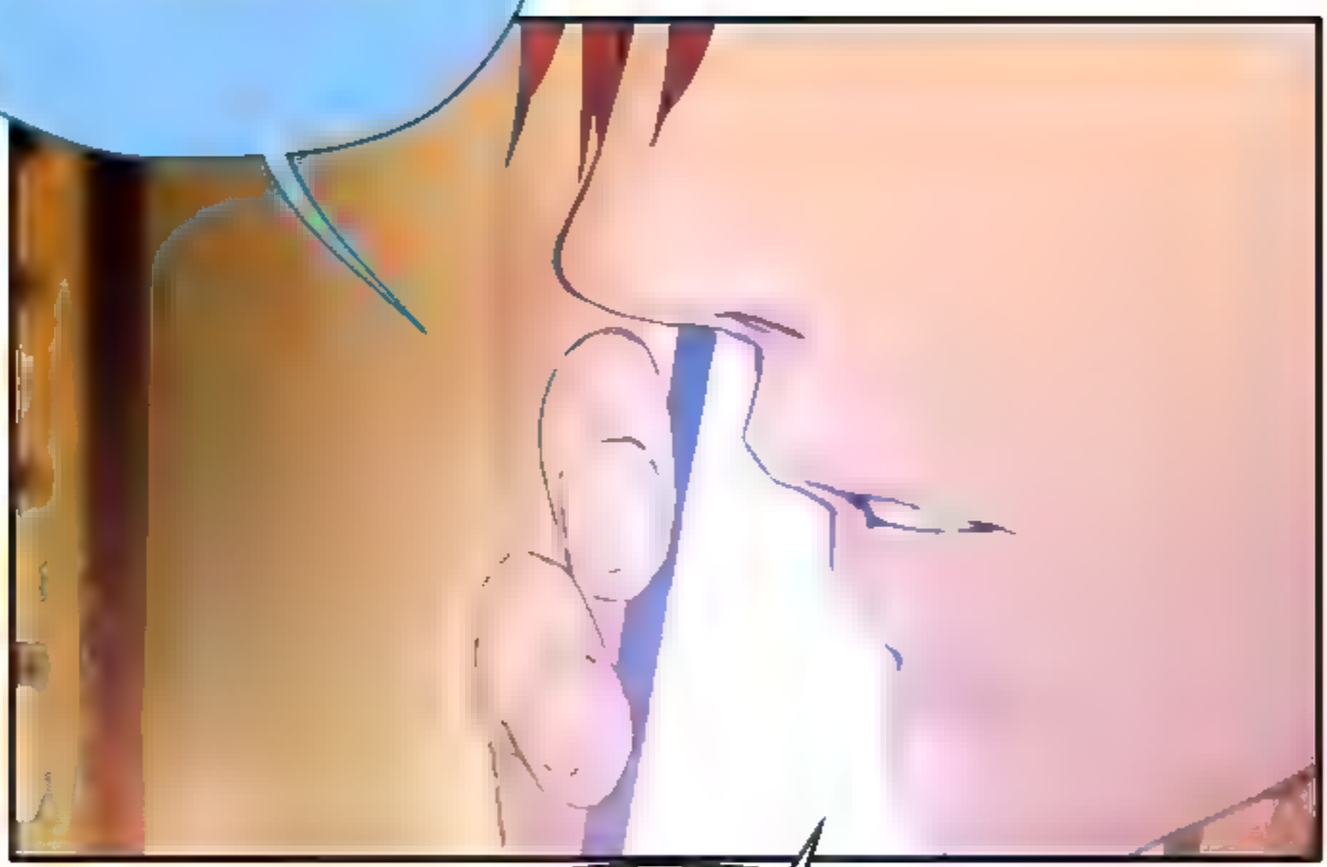

HUFF..
AYANE'S ABOUT TO BREAK MY BONES HERE! TAKE ANYA BACK HOME NOW!

I'M AFRAID
I CAN'T DO THAT,
SENSEI.
THAT'S THE REASON
I CALLED.



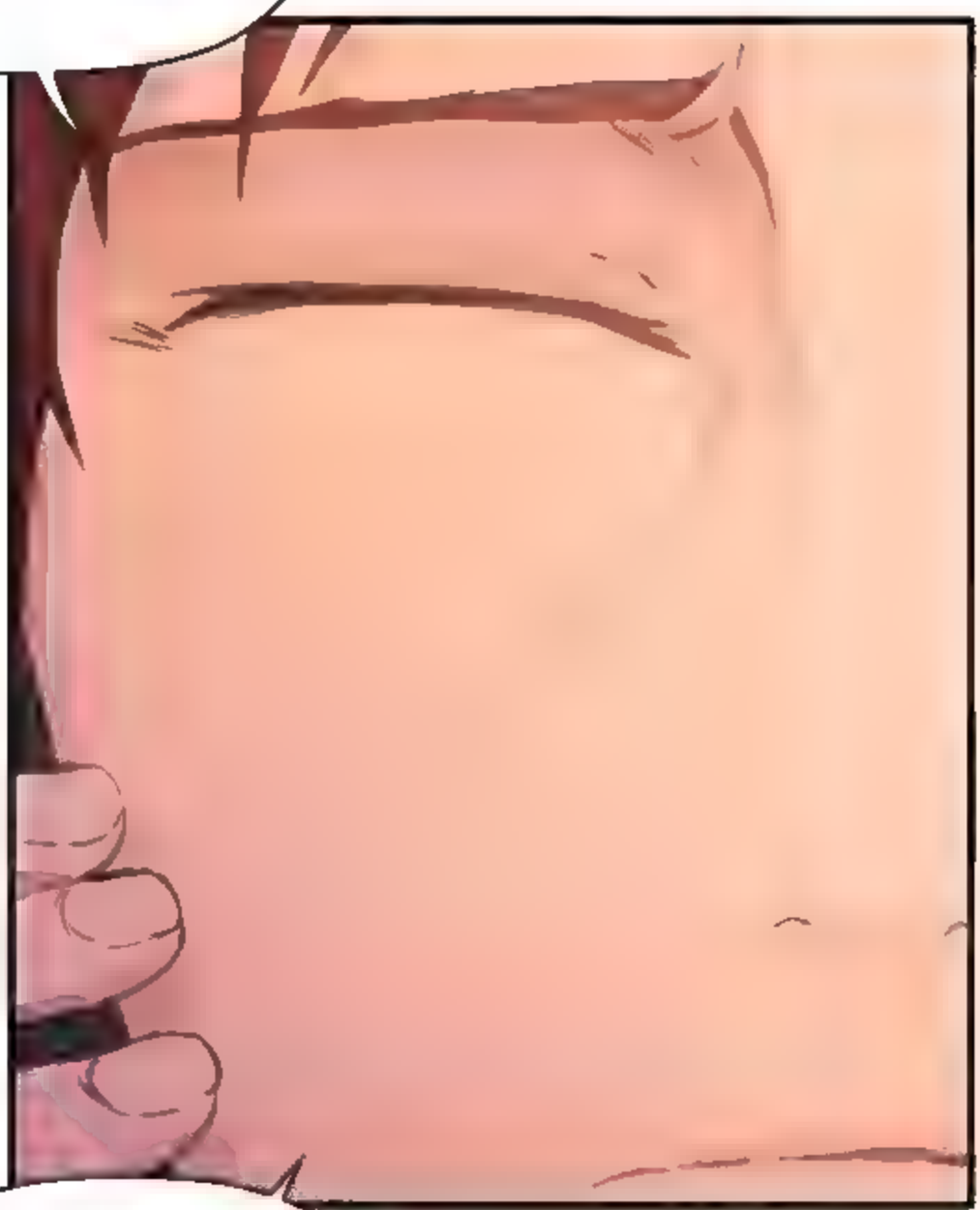
THERE'S SOMETHING
I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH
AYANE-SAN.
CAN I TALK TO
HER?

TALK TO HER!?
ARE YOU REALLY OUT OF YOUR MIND AXEL!?



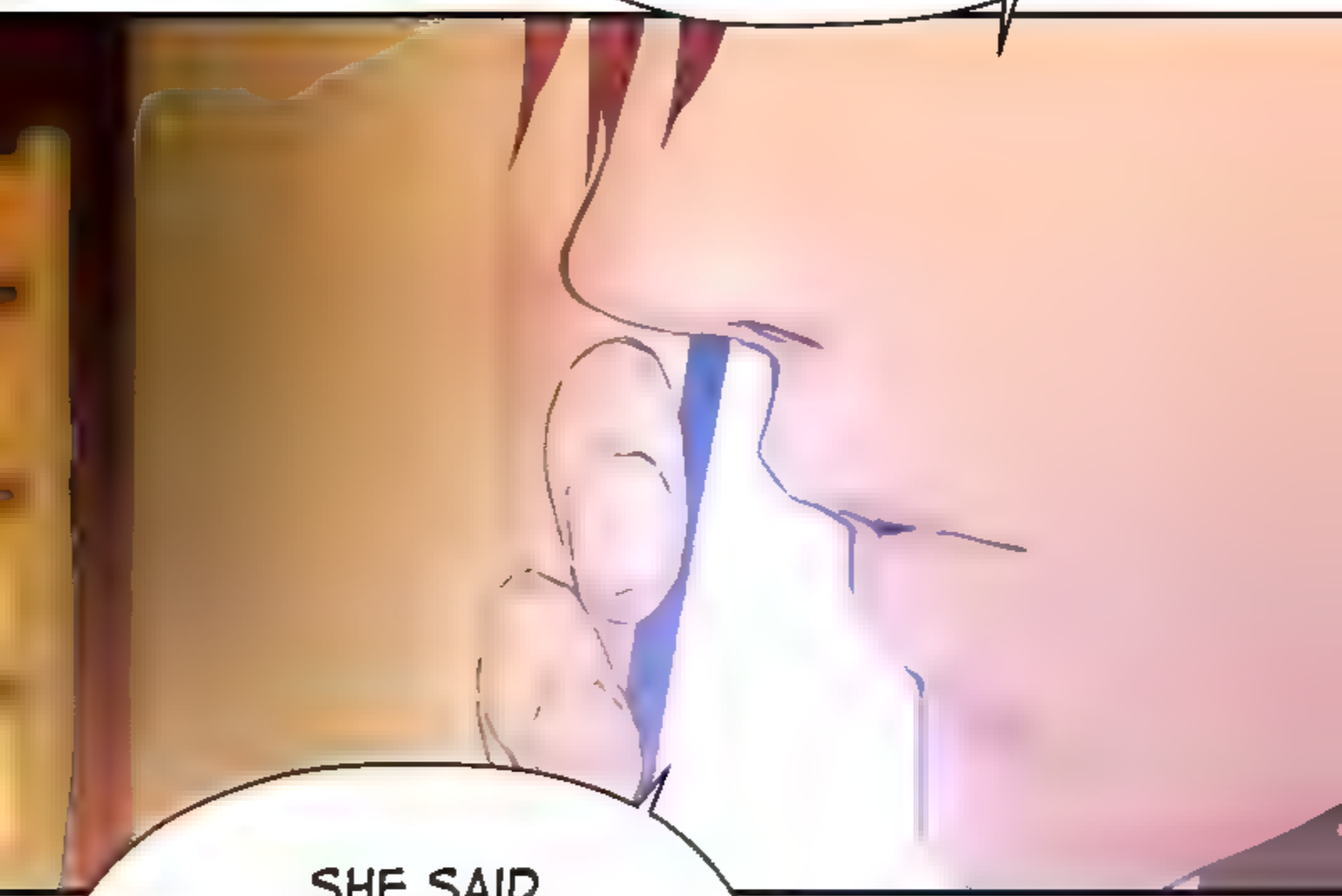
ABOUT MY CONDITION.
YOU BOTH KNEW, RIGHT?

WH-?..
WHAT CONDITION?



WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

I HAD MY PERSONAL NURSE CHECK ON ME FROM TIME TO TIME AND..



..SHE SAID *IT* IS UNEVITABLE AND GETTING WORSE.

WHY'D YOU KEEP IT FROM ME SENSEI?

I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP IT FROM YOU AXEL.

I THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND IF I EXPLAIN TO YOU EVERYTHING AT THE RIGHT TIME.

IT'S JUST..

I DON'T KNOW HOW AND WHERE TO START. I'M SORRY.

DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE. IT WON'T CHANGE A THING ANYWAY.

SENSEI,
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DISCUSS WITH AYANE-SAN IS ALL FOR ANYA'S SAKE.
PLEASE LET ME TALK TO HER.
*SIGH
ALRIGHT.
I'LL LET YOU TALK TO HER BUT..

..I WANT TO HEAR
WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT
TO SAY AS WELL.
I'LL PUT YOU INTO LOUDSPEAK
MODE.
I CAN'T RISK MY
SAFETY SO JUST TALK TO HER
FROM THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE DOOR.

HON..

IT'S AXEL.

HE-..
HE WANTS TO SPEAK
WITH YOU.

WHY?
DOES ALL THIS B*LLSH*T RELATED TO HIM BEING WITH ANYA, HUH? NATHAN!?

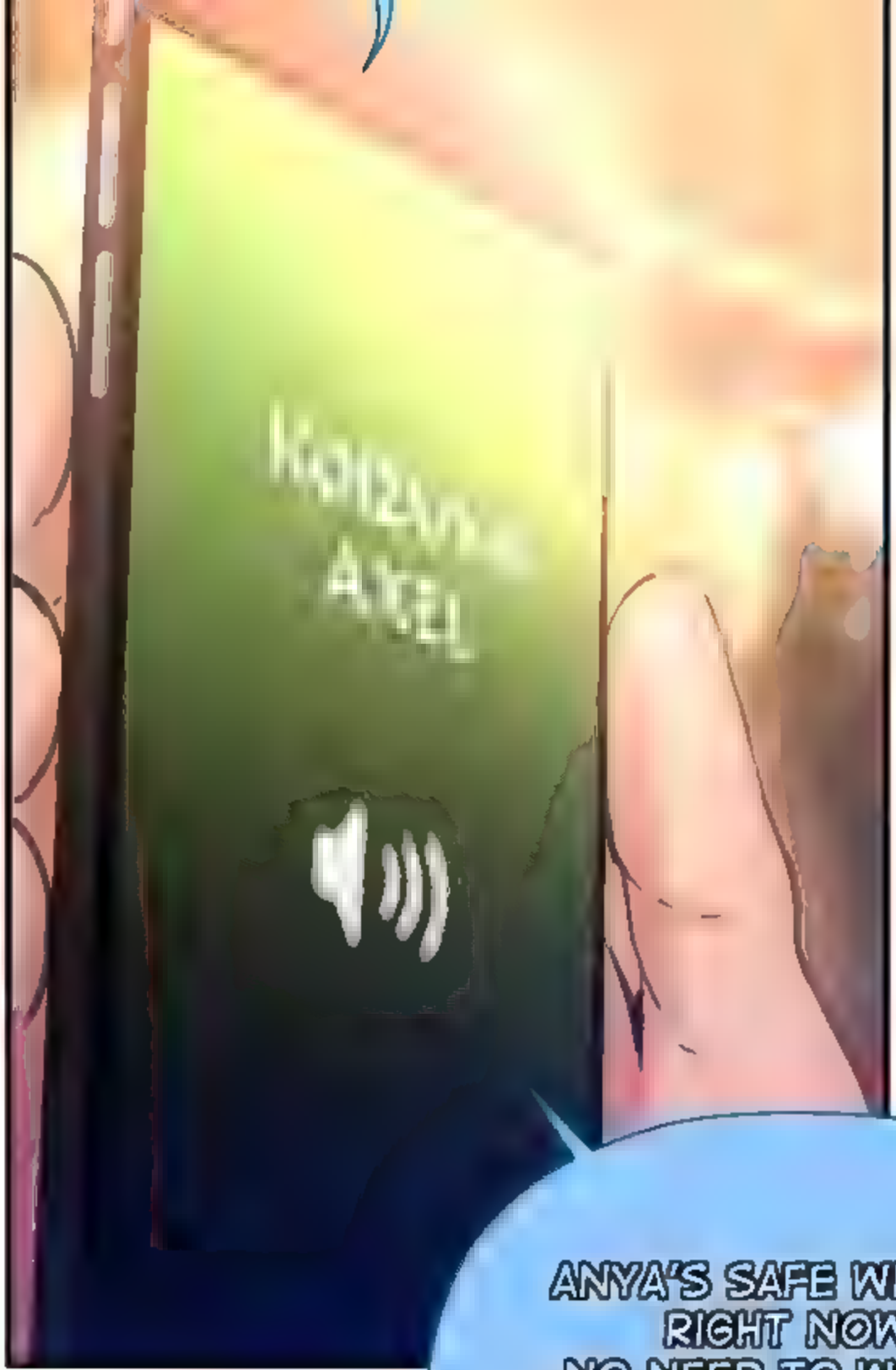
HON..
CALM DOWN.
I TRUST THIS KID JUST LIKE A TRUE FATHER TO HIS SON. I'M CERTAIN ANYA'S SAFE WITH HIM.

REMEMBER WHEN HE WAS STILL A KID? HE KNOWS ABOUT IT NOW.
CAN YOU POSSIBLY OPEN YOURSELF TO HIM? JUST FOR NOW.

HE KNOWS? OR PERHAPS HE'S REMEMBERED WHAT HAPPENED.

IF WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID ABOUT HIS CONDITION WHEN HE GROW UP WAS TRUE THEN.. MAYBE HE'S EXPERIENCING THE SYMPTOMS OF IT NOW.

T-THANK YOU
AYANE-SAN.
GOODMORNING
BY THE WAY.


ANYA'S SAFE WITH ME RIGHT NOW.
NO NEED TO WORRY.
WHAT I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IS ABOUT ANYA'S TENNIS.
I THINK I GET NOW WHY YOU DID NOT TEACH HER ALL YOUR PLAYSTYLE AND TECHNIQUES.

ALL BECAUSE OF ANYA'S WEAK BODY. SHE'S STRONG BUT HER BODY CAN'T SUSTAIN THE STRESS IN THE LONG RUN.

I'VE PLAYED WITH HER IN A FULL 3-SET MATCH.
SHE BEAT ME DURING THE FIRST SET SINGLE HANDIDLY. HER SERVES ARE FREAKING EXPLOSIVE I CAN'T ALMOST EVEN TOUCH IT.
BUT HER FOOT PAID THE PRICE.

I GUESS MAJORITY OF HER STRENGTH COMES FROM HER LOWER BODY.
USING HER BODY WEIGHT TO HIT THE BALL WITH IMMENSE POWER.

BACKHAND..
FOREHAND..
FROM GESTURE
TO POSES..EVERYTHING..
SHE'S PERFECTLY COPIED
YOUR PLAYSTYLE

AYANE-SAN.

BUT WHAT MAKES
HER EVEN MORE SCARIER
IS THAT SHE'S UNCONCIOUSLY
HITTING THE BALLS JUST LIKE
HOW NATAHAN-SENSEI
HIT HIS POWER SHOTS.

THE SENSATION IS TOO VIVID IT EVEN GIVES ME THE CHILLS UNTIL NOW.

SHE'S LIKE..

..AYANE AND NATHAN

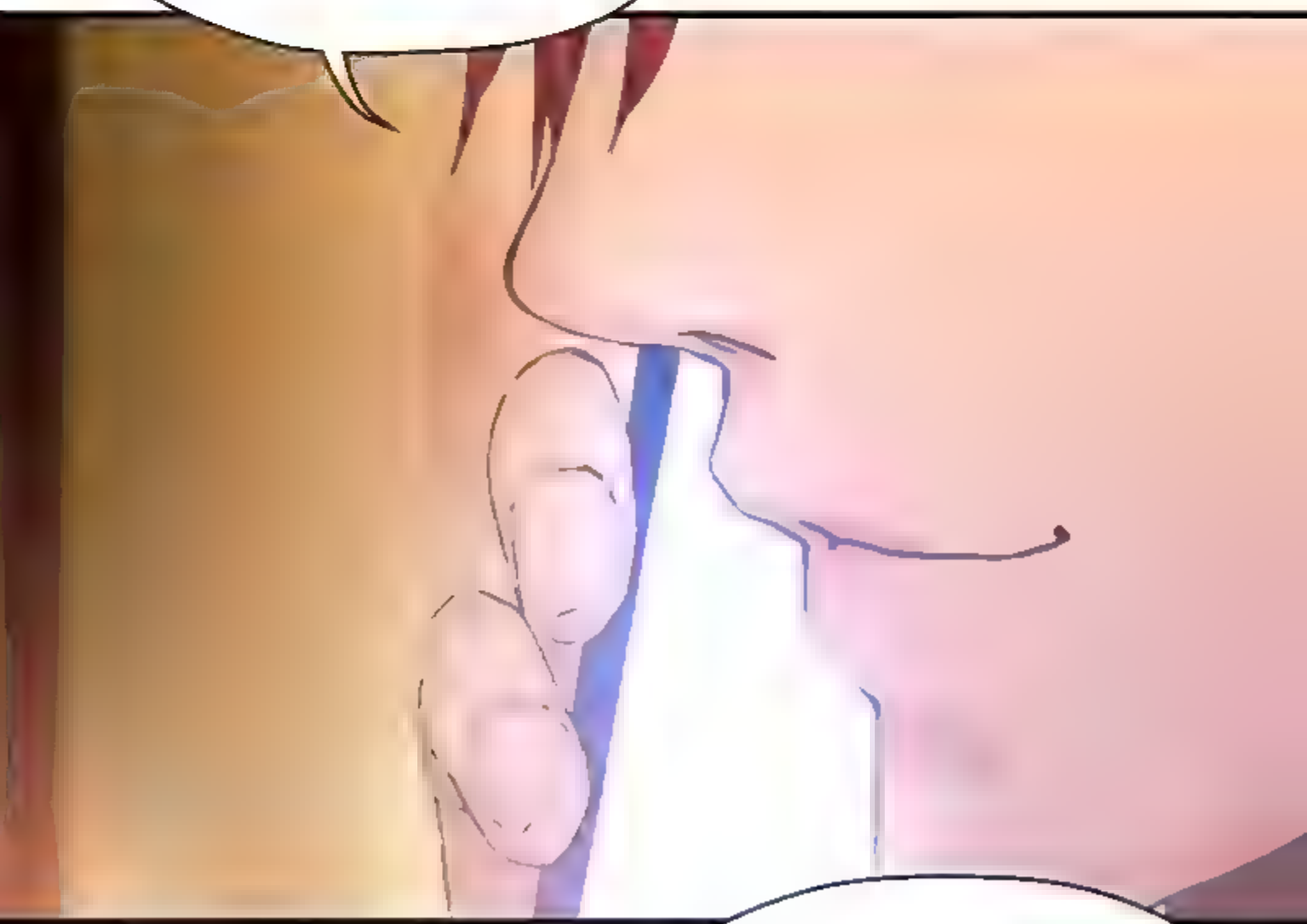
FUSED IN ONE BODY.

YOU KNEW SHE'S LEARNING AND IMPROVING FASTER THAN A NORMAL PLAYER WOULD BUT YOU WERE AFRAID SHE MIGHT HURT HERSELF IN THE PROCESS.

GET ME STRAIGHT TO YOUR POINT KID.
YOU SOUND LIKE ASKING MY APPROVAL FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

WHERE ARE YOU GETTING AT?

RIGHT.
I'VE REALIZED
I DON'T HAVE MUCH
TIME LEFT SO..

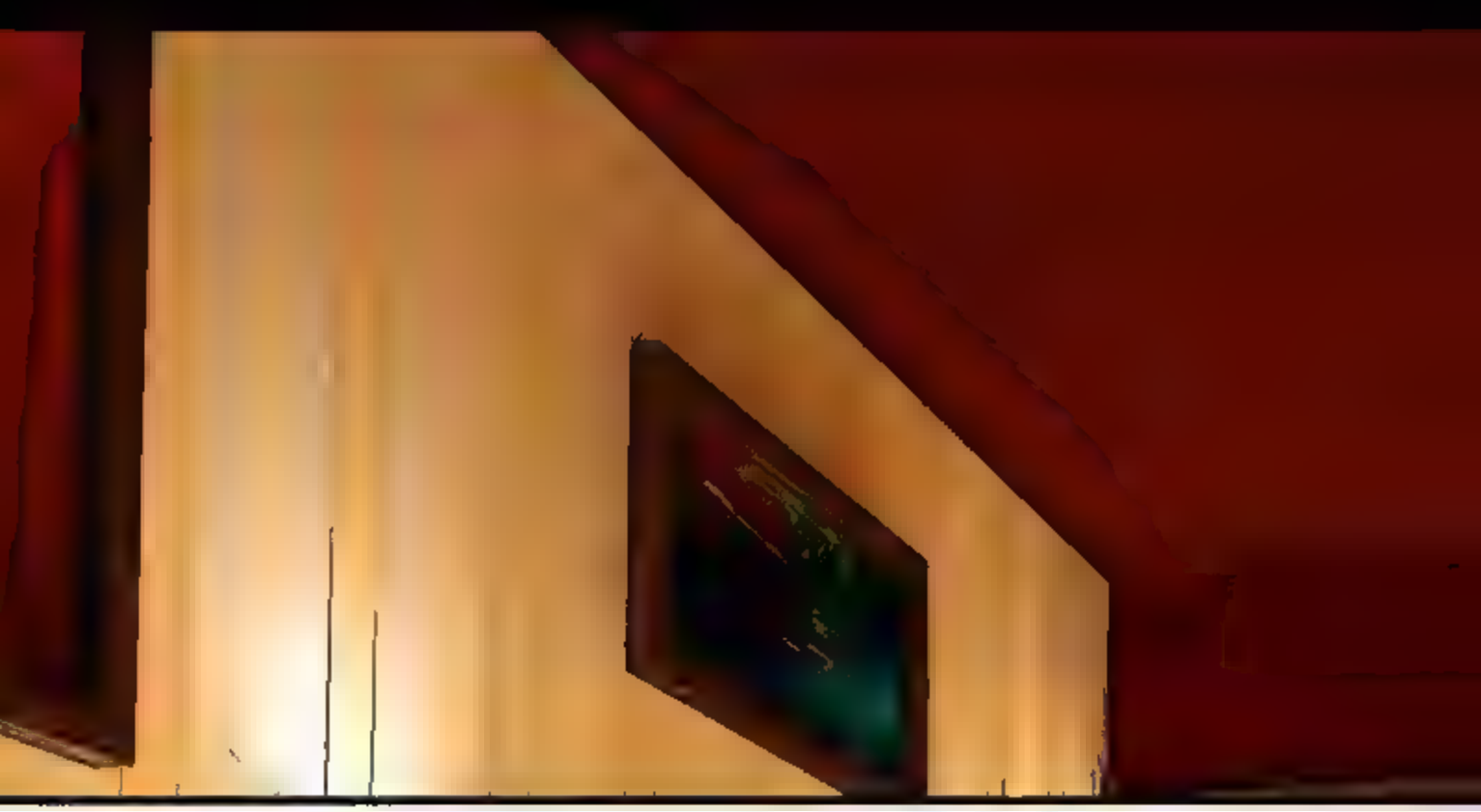


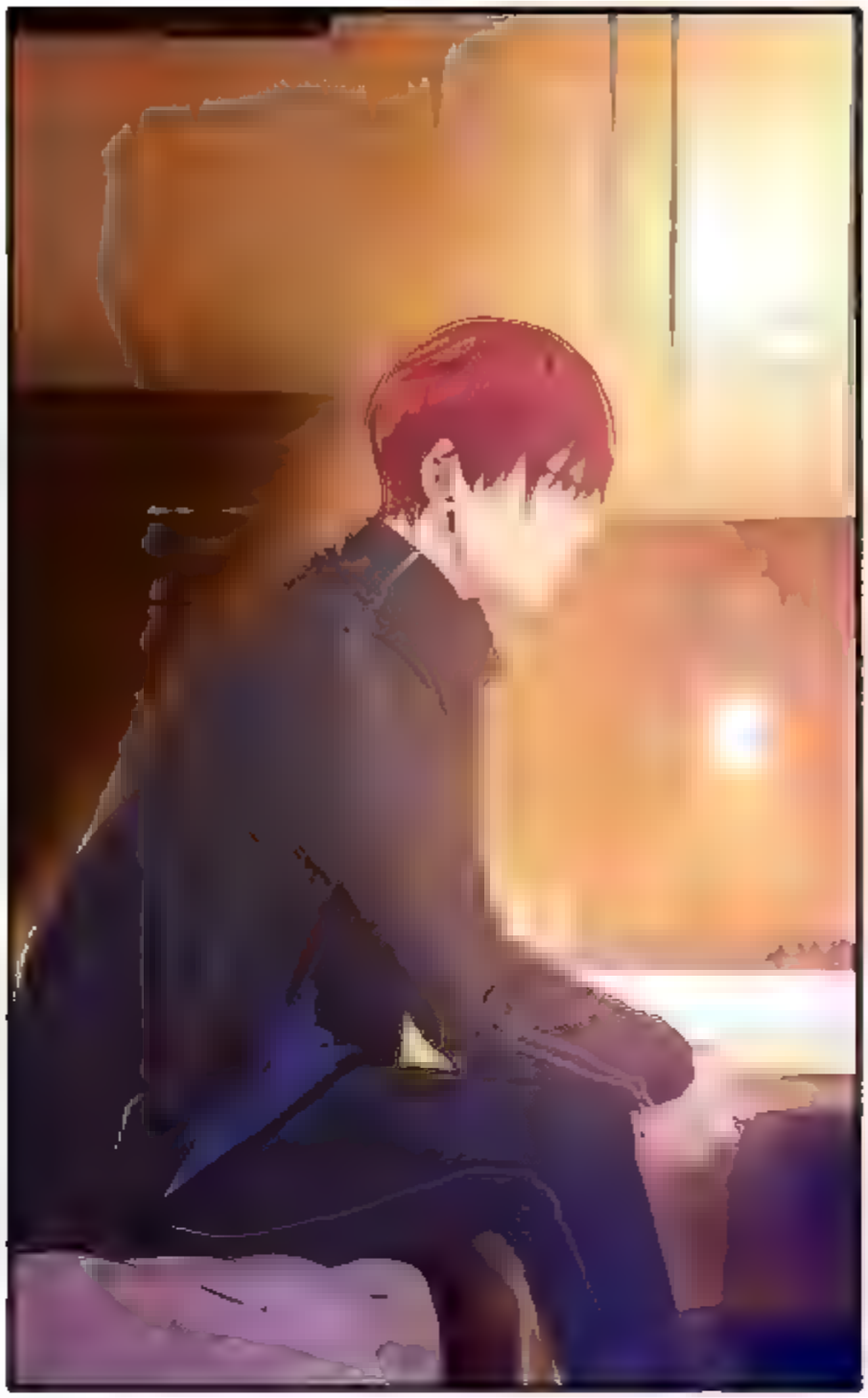
..I WANT TO BORROW

ANYA AND TEACH HER EVERYTHING I KNOW.

FIVE MONTHS... FIVE MONTHS IS ALL I NEED AYANE-SAN.

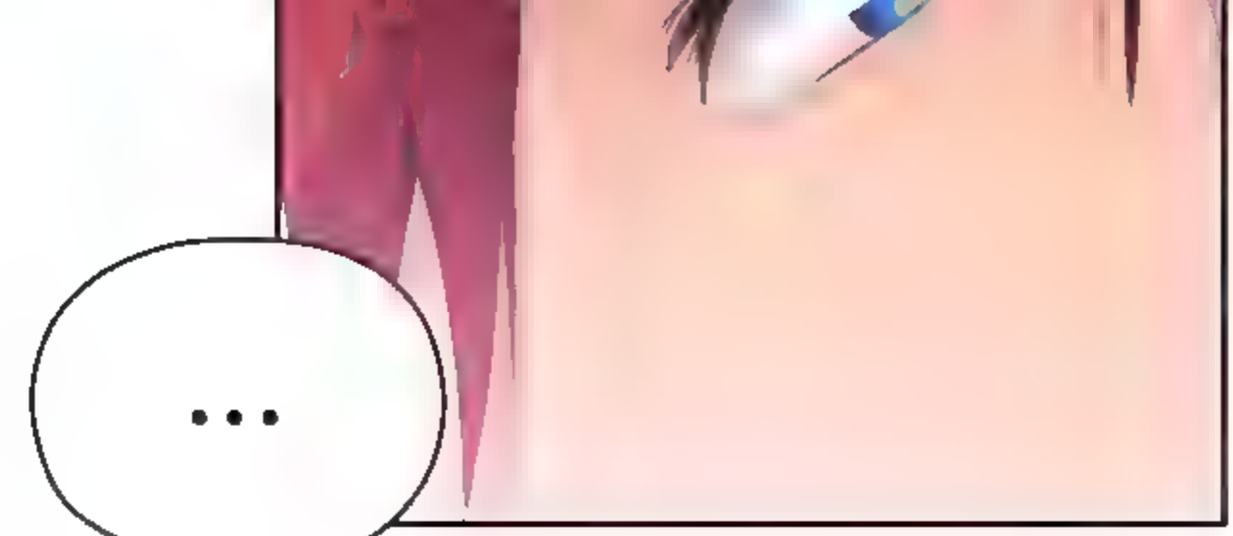
WILL YOU CONSIDER THIS AS MY "LAST WISH"?





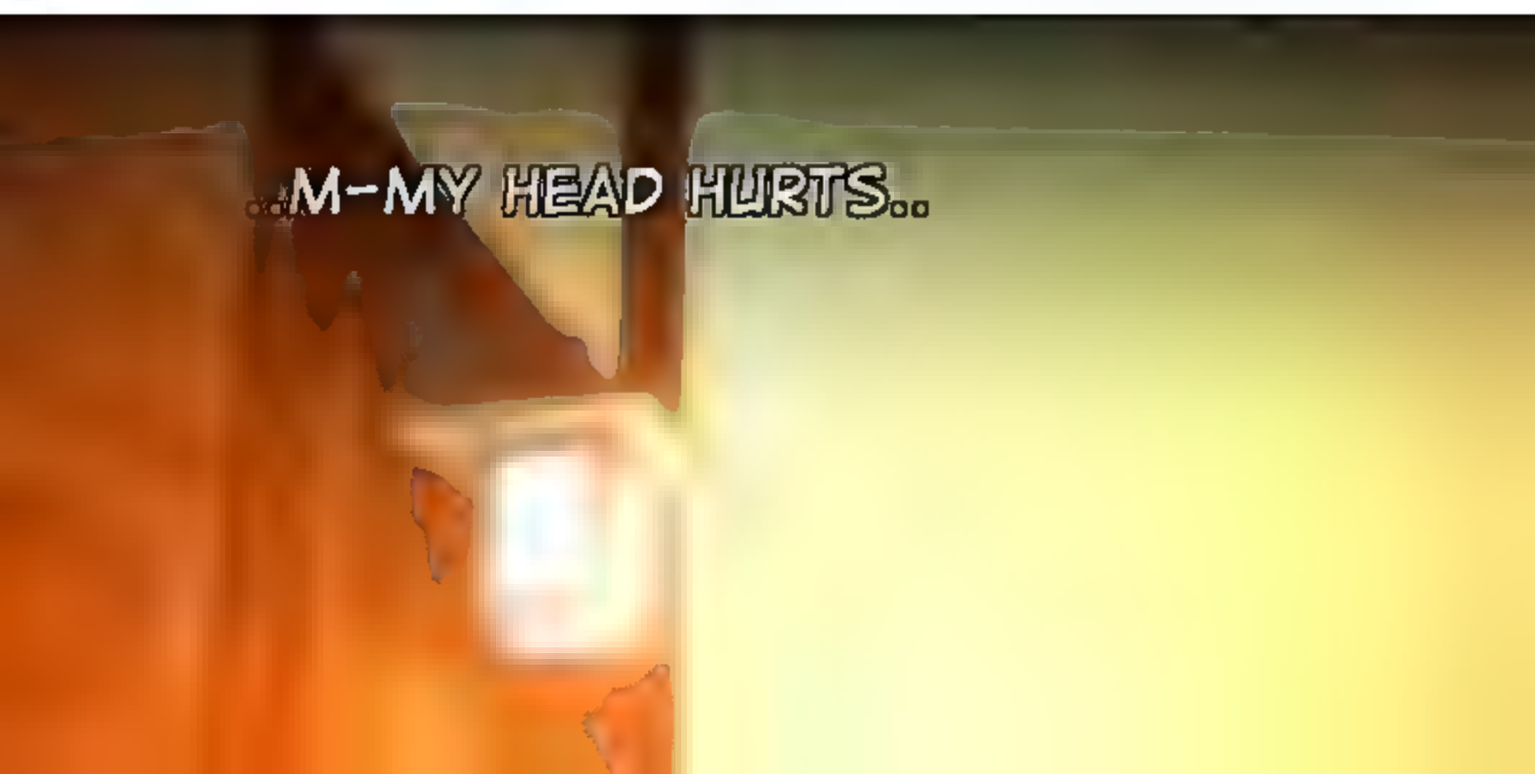
MNN..

NNN..


...

MMM..

UGH..

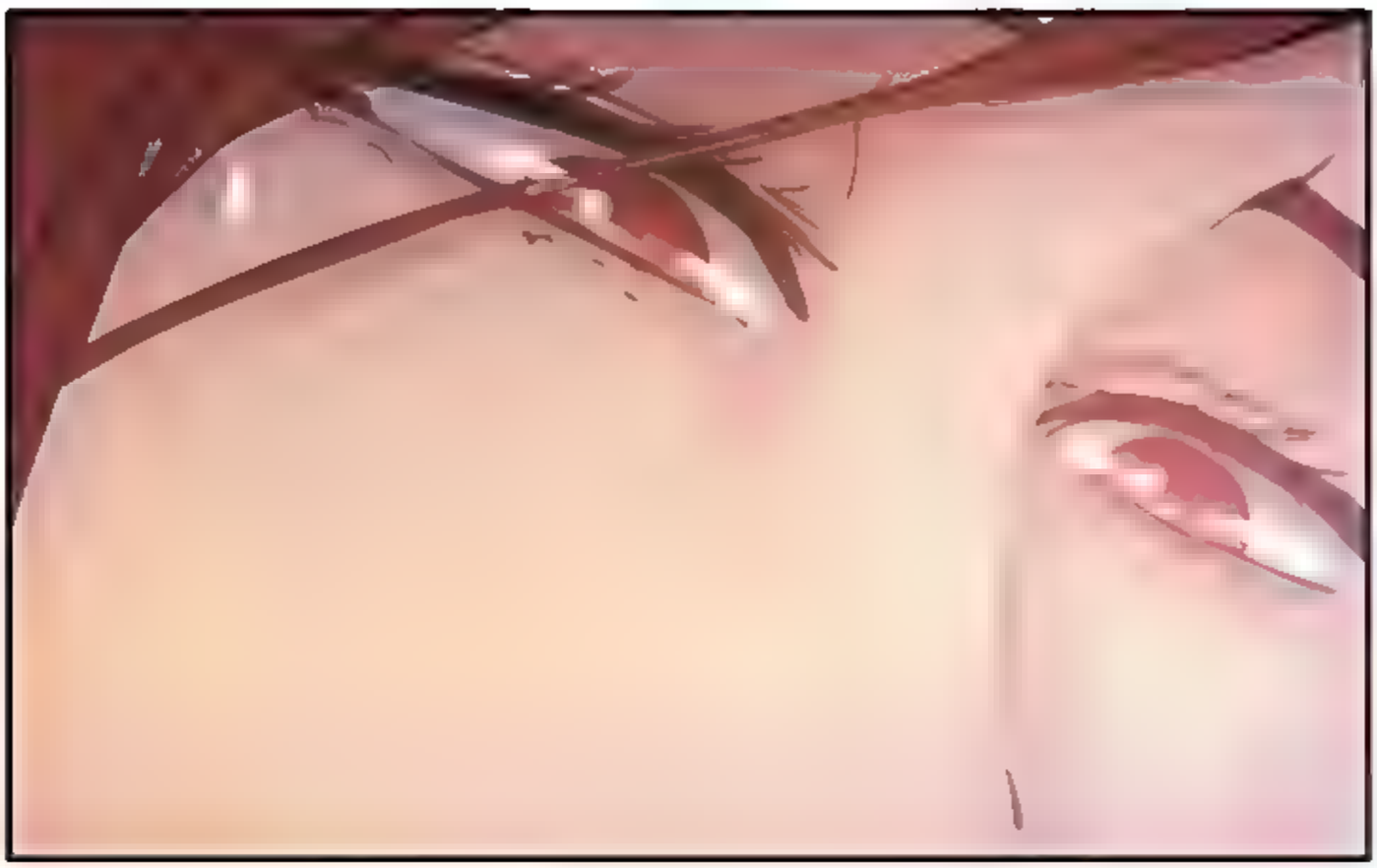

..M-MY HEAD HURTS..

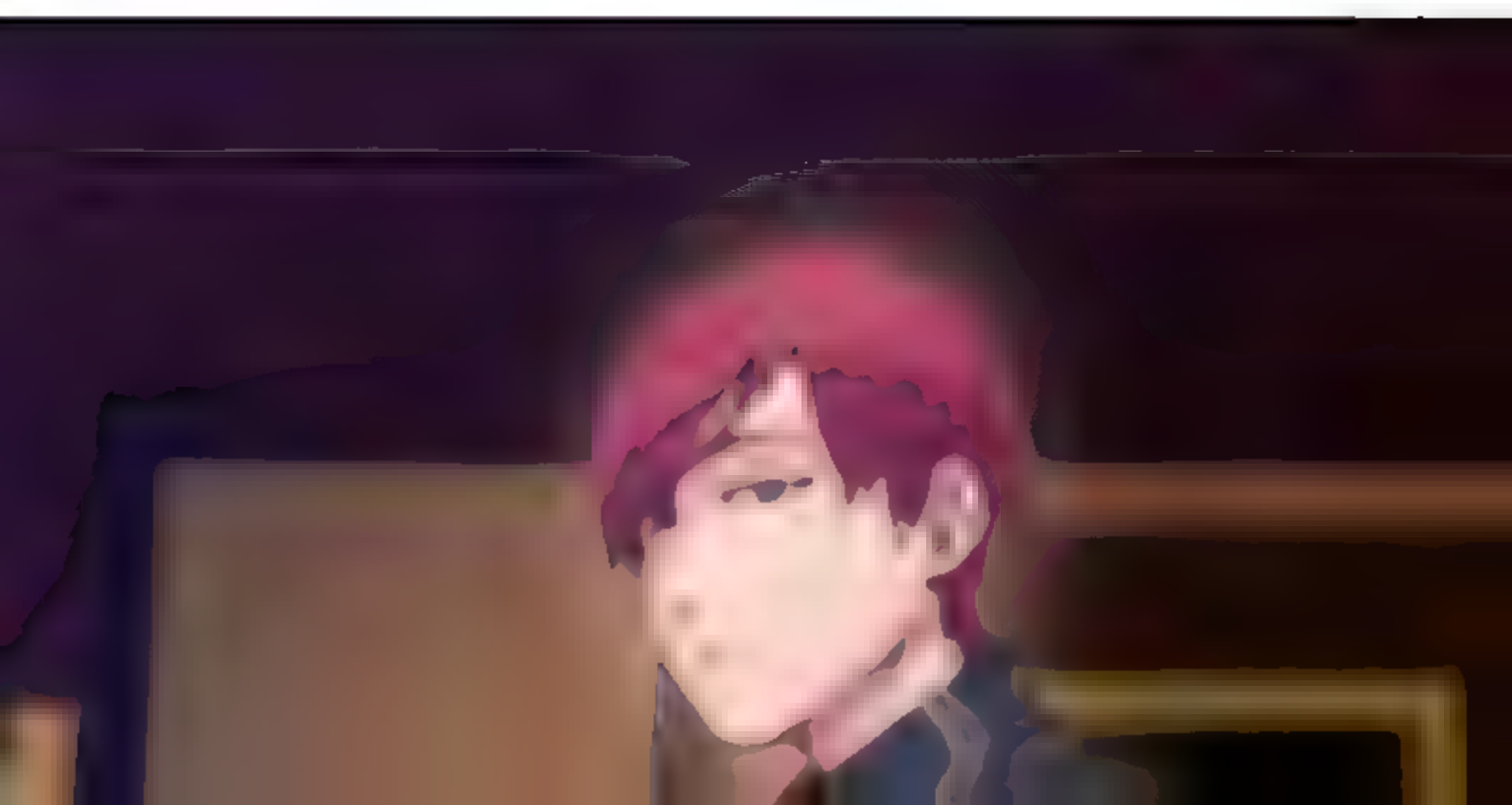
W-WHERE AM I?

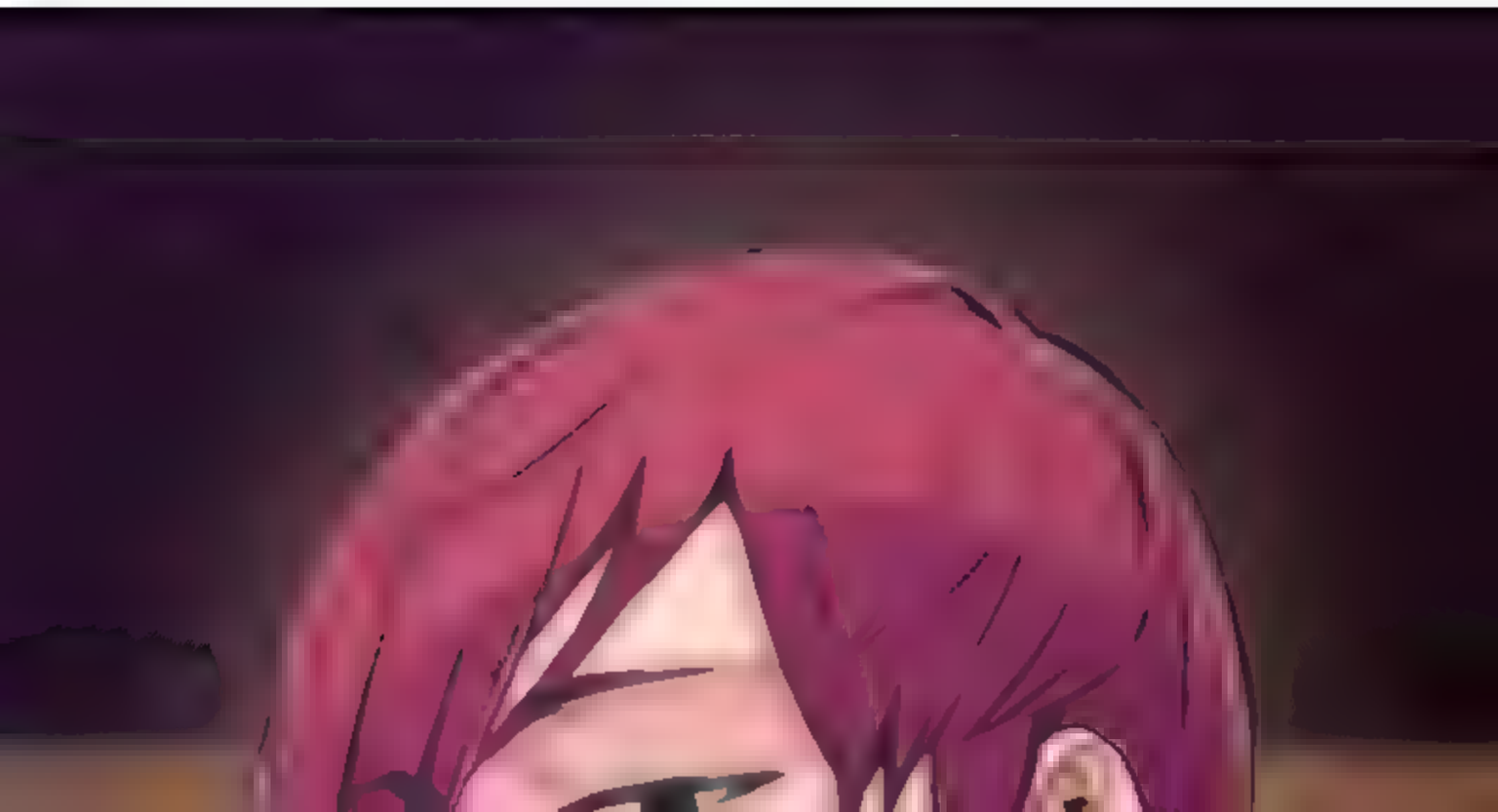
AM I HOME..?

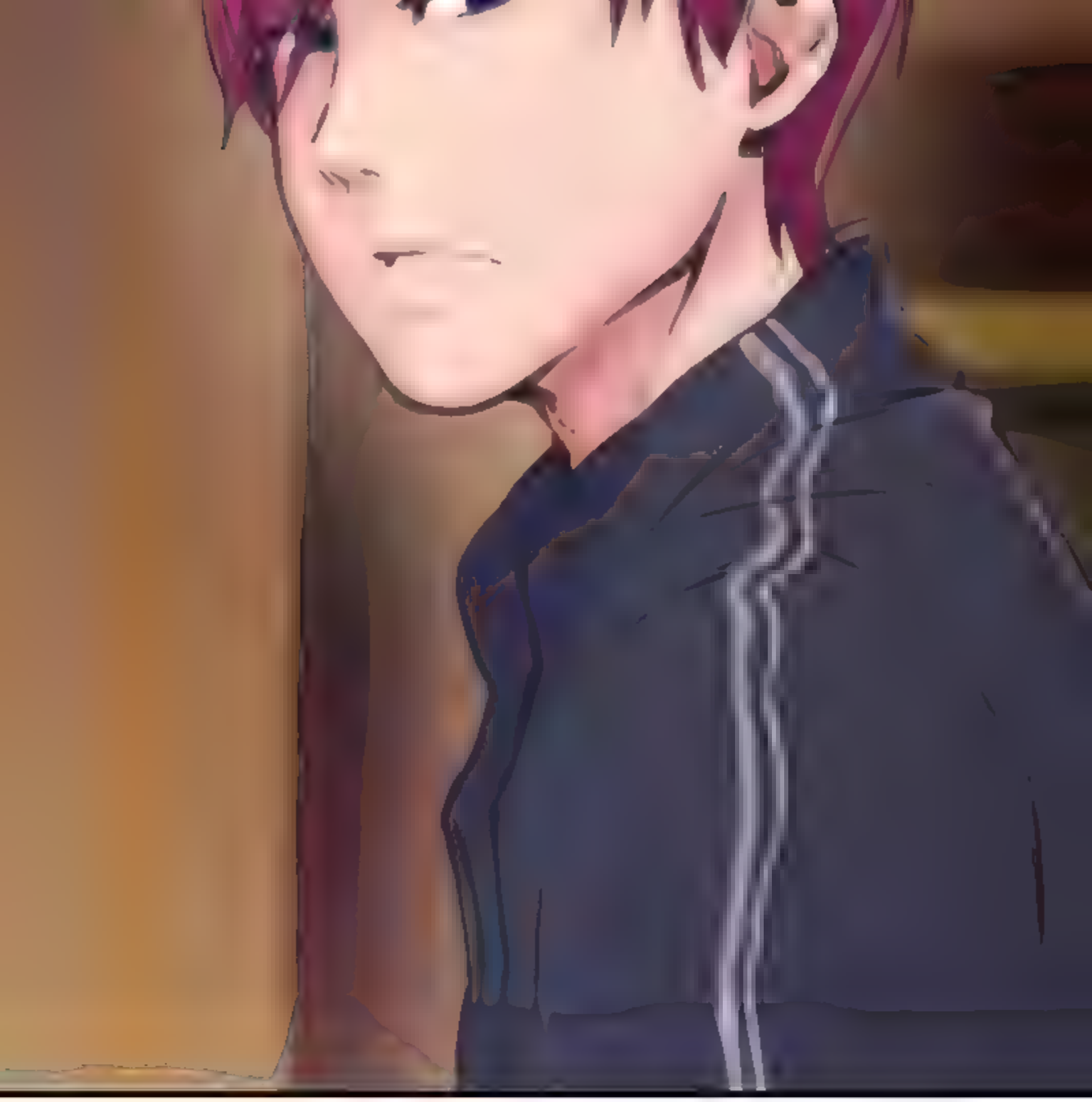
??

WHO-..?





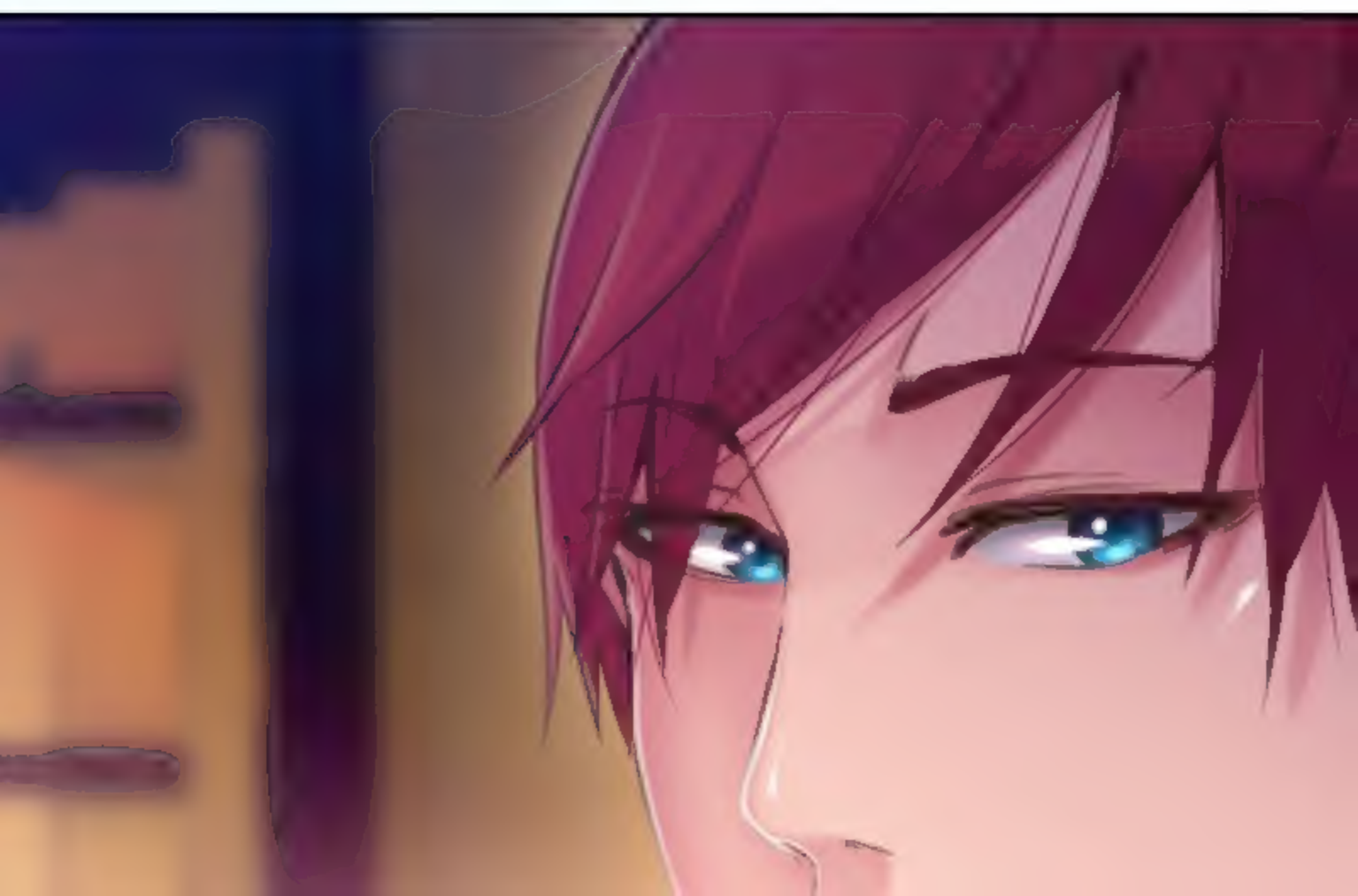




?

I HAD YOUR EYE-CONTACTS REMOVED SO IT WON'T HURT YOUR EYES.

GET YOURSELF READY.
WE'RE GOING OUT FOR A REMATCH.



YOUR MOM'S GOING TO SEE YOU PLAY.

TO BE CONTINUED..

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